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THE KILVERT SOCIETY

Formed (in 1948) to foster an interest in the Rev. Francis Kilvert,
his work, his diary and the countryside he loved.

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SEPTEMBER 1988.

Dear Member,

Once upon a time there was the phrase "Kilvert weather", and had our summer weekend taken place a little earlier, the phrase could have been used once more. As it was, Saturday's showers were followed by a continuous downpour on Sunday. Twenty members assembled at Clyro, and the cavalcade (or "Kilvercade" as one member termed it) proceeded via Painscastle to the high ground just south of Rhulen, where picnic lunches were eaten. The view northwards was superb, range upon range of hills, but there was evidence of showers scudding across the landscape. Around the track taken for the Mawn Pool, bracken was fresh and green, there were masses of whinberry "wires" and everywhere in more open spaces tiny white heath bedstraw. (On the way up from Clyro the hedgerows would have delighted Kilvert, for they "were luxuriant with the luscious sweetness of woodbine and the beauty of the stars of dark red roses"). Larks and meadow pipits were seen and heard, and long before the party reached the Mawn Pool cries of black-headed gulls were to be heard. Over 100 of them, with their fledglings, occupied the pool. But it was obvious from the approaching showers scudding along the Edw valley, that rain was not far off, and indeed when the party was about 150 yards from the parked cars, the heavens opened! Beyond Hay and en route for the Burnt House the roads were dry. The walkers - among whom were our new members Mr. and Mrs. Brimson - expressed much pleasure with the itinerary, and we were all very grateful to Mr. Gordon Rogers for arranging it.

Sunday at Bredwardine Church (by kind permission of Rev. P.W. Byllam-Barnes, who conducted the service) was a very different event from the first Society service there 40 years ago. (The sun shone then, the church was packed and those unable to get in sat outside to hear the relay of that service). Incessant rain obviously deterred members, but over 80 were gathered together for Sunday's service. The Remembrancer was our Committee member, Rev. B.F. Price, and the lessons read by our Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Harley Dance, and myself. The four hymns were Charles Wesley's, chosen not only to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the conversion of the Wesleys, but also to illustrate points in our Chairman's sermon. We have come to expect excellent addresses from him, and we were not disappointed. He spoke of Kilvert's simple acceptance of the old religion, untouched by Victorian trends and thoughts; how, for Kilvert, this earthly existence was a kind of exile and that heaven was the true home. Hence his belief that Easter was the greatest Christian festival, expressing a firm trust in the Resurrection of the Dead and the Life Everlasting, as well as in God the Creator and in Jesus Christ the Redeemer - all these tenets illustrated not only from the Diary, but also from the subjects of the two lessons - Ittai, the mercenary, and St. Thomas.

The service over, members walked up to the Parish Hall, where the ladies of the parish had prepared a sumptuous tea. As one lady said to me, walking back to where the cars were parked, the service had been so uplifting and the tea so splendid, that the steady downpour of rain just didn't matter!

We are of course most grateful to Rev. Byllam-Barnes, the churchwardens, Miss Walker (the Organist) and the ladies who provided the tea.

CLYRO WEEKEND - September 23rd. - 25th. Full details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Yours sincerely,
E.J.C. West
Hon. Secretary.

OBITUARY. We regret to announce the death of Mr. Ian Nimmo (Leicester) a member since 1974.

KILVERT AND THE BREDWARDINE SCHOOL LOG BOOK
by John Hodkin (Cumbria)

Extracts from the Bredwardine School log book, published in the June 1976 Newsletter, gave some precious glimpses of Kilvert when he was Vicar of the village, which makes it all the more regrettable that the Clyro parish school log book, featured in the June 1978 issue, made no mention of him.

It is interesting to compare the entries in the Bredwardine log book which mention Kilvert with the corresponding entries in the diary.

The first entry in the log book is for December 19th. 1877, when Kilvert had only been Vicar for a few weeks. It says: "The Vicar who conformably to the Time Table gives his religious lesson before the Secular morning instruction, has kindly favoured us with his personal assistance for several consecutive mornings past".

Alas, there is no entry in the Kilvert diary for this day as it comes in the huge chunk from June 1876 to December 1877 which was removed.

Moving on to 1878, the first entry in the log book to mention Kilvert is for January 15th: "The Vicar gave an examination paper in Religious Knowledge to the three upper standards from 9.10 to 9.55 a.m.". The diary entry for the day, a Tuesday, says: "School at 9. 30 and taught the higher standards the history of Hezekiah's illness, and the shadow returning on the dial".

The next log entry is for March 26th. which states: "During the past few days the Vicar has not been able to take his usual Scripture Class owing to Indisposition". The corresponding diary entry for March 26th, a Tuesday, makes no mention of Kilvert being ill, and records that he visited the Merediths and Stokes. On a recent stay at Langley Burrell, however, he had been very ill. On Tuesday, March 5th. Spencer, the doctor, called to see him and said he had congestion of the lungs. "This evening I was worse than I have been at all and could hardly draw breath from the tightness of the chest".

On May 14th. the log book records: "Clothing distributed to the Charity children by the Vicar at 1. 30 p.m.". Unfortunately there is no entry in the diary for that day.

On June 6th. the log book says: "The Vicar was unable to take his usual Scripture Lesson this week".

The diary reveals the reason for this. On Tuesday, June 4th. his brother Teddy was married to Nellie Pitcairn at St. Barnabas Church, Kensington, and Kilvert did not return to Bredwardine until the Saturday of that week.

There is no further entry in the log book on Kilvert until October 21st. which says: "The Vicar was kind enough to take all the school in a general scripture lesson, in order somewhat to relieve the Teacher who is suffering from a bronchial attack".

There is an intriguing feature about this as there is no entry for that day, a Monday, in Kilvert, but at the end of the entry for October 19th. it says "(Kilvert goes to Langley Burrell)". In the entry for Friday, October 25th. we find Kilvert travelling to Bath by the 9. 45 train to see the dentist and to buy some gloves.

Kilvert may possibly have made a special journey home to Bredwardine to take the scripture lesson, an indication of how seriously he took his duties, and he finally returned home again on Wednesday, October 30th.

There is a mystery about the next entry in the log book, on Monday, November 25th. "The Vicar being very unwell this morning is unable to take his usual scripture lesson".

A different picture emerges in the diary for that date, as Kilvert went to stay at Rhayader Vicarage with the Langhames, and made no mention of being in poor health. Despite ice and snow he walked up to St. Harmon's and went to the drill hall at 7. 30 to see the Rhayader volunteers drill (a fruitless trip as the hall was deserted). He did, however, watch the salmon spearing from the bridge.

Presumably what happened was that Kilvert told the school authorities that he

would be unable to attend the school that day as he was going away, but they got the lines crossed and thought he was ill.

The final occasion where the log book and the diary both mention the same day is Monday, January 13th. 1879. The log book says: "The Vicar took the whole School in Religious Subjects this morning and kindly released the Teacher until the time for Secular Subjects had commenced".

The diary merely records with regard to the school that he called at the Cottage after School and found the household in great confusion because of a rapid thaw.

It is hard to understand why we have no mention in the diary of the incident recorded in the log book for Monday, February 24th: "Mrs. R. East came this morning to complain that the girl Annie Farmer had stolen her daughter's gloves. The charge which seemed quite clear against the accused was placed by the Teacher in the hands of the Vicar for him to take what action in the matter might seem to him expedient".

The next entry in the log book is for April 28th. by which time, of course, what we have of the diary had finished.

If we had the whole diary no doubt the discrepancies would be cleared up. It is just one of many reasons to lament the wicked and wanton destruction of the original, save for the three notebooks which we have.

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KILVERT SOCIETY STORIES
by H.W. Butcher (Bournemouth)

(Mr. Butcher is one of the very few founder members still alive, and until his departure for Bournemouth in the sixties was Chairman of the Society. He also did much research into old issues of the "Hereford Times", finding four poems by Kilvert, hitherto unknown, as well as other items concerning the diarist).

On one occasion a group from a large city accompanied the Society Walk to Llewellyn's cave. They hurried ahead of the main party on the return, and when out of sight of the others they continued forward instead of taking a turning left. They got themselves down into the Wye valley, and hailed a car. This was fortunate, as the group aboard were camp- and map-minded. The conversation was as follows:-

"Where did you start from?"

"Haven't any idea! (A very helpful reply!) "We have a car somewhere in Radnorshire".

"What village?"

"There wasn't one".

"Let's have a look at the map", said the motorist. "Ah! there's a lake in the hills not far from here. Did you at any time see a lake?"

"Yes!"

"Then", said the motorist, whose car was already overcrowded, "let's go past it".

Soon the road, if road it could be called, was recognised, and the car found up by some rocks, with all the others.

Such are the worries of party-leaders! But what luck to have hailed that particular car, and what a lesson for the group! Radnorshire is a very small county, but it seems to grow when one is lost. At the time I was speaking of, it didn't possess a single traffic light, and Herefordshire had only one!

Mr. Prosser (Hon. Secretary 1952-77) told me a story of another "townee" in Radnorshire. The man's petrol gauge registered nought. He came eventually to a remote single petrol pump. The townee explained, "But I don't use that brand!" Under pressure he was obliged to buy a gallon.

Many years ago I attended an evening meeting at Pant-y-dwr (North of St. Harmons), and among those present were Tory and Labour candidates. Sid Wright (the Society's first president) got up and said, "Why do I love this stuff about Kilvert? Well", he continued, "soon it will be about the only thing Labour haven't nationalised!" The Tory candidate was very much taken with this! (Tudor Watkins, the Labour man, was very well liked in the area, and regularly attended Kilvert Sundays). The postmaster from Rhayader was also present; he didn't believe in letting things stand still. He pointed out to me that some forms had to be moved, and that over in the corner was a broom that needed using; and ordered the parson to do another job. I was told that the room held as many as 1,000 people at an Eisteddfod, but to me 250 would have been plenty. But it was a very large room in what was apparently "nowhere".

On another occasion a party met at the "Red Lion" at Bredwardine, and the plan was to go from there to the motte and bailey at Longtown Castle. I said to Mr. Prosser that there were two routes. "Wait a minute, wait a minute", he said, "I'll let you know the route if you'll only wait a minute!" I waited, and off he went in his car full tilt! I brought up the rear. The car in front of me went badly at first, but then went like a scalded cat, leaving me behind. At Dorstone the others were out of sight, so I took a road that I knew would get me to Longtown. It was the one the others did not take! When they arrived, I was waiting by the Castle, and was blamed for causing them to wait for me. When we came away Mr. Prosser told me to lead, and there was no further trouble.

The same sort of thing happened at Llanidloes. Mr. Prosser got over some traffic lights, but the rest didn't. He never looked behind and parked out of sight. Then he wondered where we'd all been to. No, he didn't have the knack over convoys!

It must have been about 1963 when Mr. Prosser asked me if I could get over to Worthing from Bournemouth to pick up some oddments from Mrs. Essex Hope. A very tall woman of about 80 years of age, she was about to move to a home for the elderly. (Her house was called "Monnington", after the Herefordshire village where she had been born). She was very kind and gave me tea and things various. On the way back I dropped in at William Plomer's for a cosy hour or so. I'd asked Mrs. Hope about the other notebook, to which she replied, "Oh, that man in the Midlands, I can't remember his name". Reporting this to William Plomer I was answered by "Rubbish! she knows only too well, it's that Mr. Harvey". I rather fancied that she had been asked not to reveal the name, and that she was in an embarrassing situation. When I arrived in the vicinity of William's bungalow and asked someone where it was, he came out into the road. He said that I only had to enter Sussex for him to know I was there! He came out with me to the car to examine the exhibits which I'd collected for Mr. Prosser. Apart from William, I think I was the last member to see Mrs. Hope. (Mr. Prosser had much correspondence with her, but I think never met her).

RESTORATION WORK AT CAPEL-Y-FFYN

The 1988 newsletter of the Father Ignatius Memorial Trust contained the sad news that much of the south wall of the Abbey Church had collapsed at the end of last year, leaving the remaining structure in a dangerous state, and closing the church to the public. The Trust now faces the formidable task of raising a very large sum of money at a time when other charities are also competing for public support for so many worthy causes. But, as Mr. W. Davies, the Hon. Secretary of the Father Ignatius Memorial Trust, writes - "The Abbey church at Capel-y-ffyn together with the Monastery and chapel form a perfect period piece. Set on a hillside in the Black Mountains, it is an important shrine in the religious history of our country, visited by thousands of visitors and pilgrims each year. We must, we feel, make every effort to ensure that it is conserved for future generations".

Donations should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, The Father Ignatius Memorial Trust, Park House, 67, Park Street, Abergavenny, Gwent. NP7 SYD.

The Annual Pilgrimage will take place on Saturday, 27th. August, leaving Capel-y-ffyn Church for the Monastery at 2. 30 p.m. The address at Solemn Evening Prayer will be given by Dr. Patrick Nuttgens.

Father Ignatius Symposium : Following the Symposium last October, Mr. Michael Yates of Llwynderw Hotel, Abergwesyn, has very kindly renewed his invitation for a day of talks on Fr. Ignatius and related subjects in October this year. Would anyone interested in attending please write to Fr.S.G. Luff, Our Lady's Church, College View, Llandovery, Dyfed. SA20 0BD.

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KILVERT AND 'Q'
by R. Best (Middlesex)

I have recently been reading the short stories of Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch, who wrote under the single letter 'Q', and have been struck by the resemblance of his "word-painting" descriptions to the similar talent shown by Kilvert. Hitherto I have never been able to relate Kilvert to another writer, but now I feel his word pictures can be most favourably compared with 'Q', which surely must be high praise indeed, as Kilvert was writing many years before 'Q'.

Another quality shared by the two writers is that they both treat their characters with a gentle affection, whatever their foibles.

I add a few random quotes from 'Q'. I hope they will send some members rushing to their bookshelves.

(From "Cuckoo Valley Railway"). "The man (aged about one and twenty) wore the uncomfortable Sunday-Best of a mechanic, with a shrivelled but still enormous bunch of sweet williams in his buttonhole. The girl was dressed in a bright green gown and white bonnet".

(From "The Paupers"). "Round the skirts of this plantation, and half-way down the hill, there runs a thick fringe of wild cherry trees. Their white blossom makes, for three weeks of the year, a pretty contrast with the larches and Scotch firs that stretch the long ridge above".

(From "The Spinsters Maying"). "They overed a stile, then a second, and were among pink slopes of orchards in bloom. Ahead of them, a church tower rose out of soft billows of apple blossom, and above the tower a lark was singing".

(From "Daphnis"). "A climb of less than a minute brought me to the green gate in Sarah Gedge's garden patch; and here I took a look backwards and upwards at Sheba. The sun lay warm on its white walls, and the whole building shone against the burnt hillside".

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LLANTHOMAS II
by the Hon. Secretary

(I begin by apologising for my stupid mistake in our June newsletter - on the 5th. line from the bottom of page 13 - where I wrote "The Dining Room was hardly ever used.....". I was actually referring to the Drawing Room).

Kilvert had a variety of routes when walking to Llanthomas from Hay and back. He could have taken the Brecon road, passed the 2 sets of alms houses and turned left at Victoria Cottage : the road past the church and Gypsy Castle : the foot-path by the Warren, alongside the river and up the fields to the Brecon road about one mile beyond Victoria Cottage, and going up Llanthomas Lane. The roads met at what was a forge (and had been the village pub) and is now a garage.

From the diary we learn that he used these routes at different times. Crossing the Digedi Bridge to meet Daisy's father he must have used the main Brecon road, proceeded a few hundred yards along the road and entered Llanthomas grounds via what was the main entrance. Revd. William Jones Thomas had created a park through which Kilvert would have walked and then crossed a little rustic bridge over a small stream, the further bank of which had been raised to create a ha-ha. Today, the gates are still to be seen, as is also the faded outline of the drive.

Llanthomas Lane still lives up to its name, though there are houses now on both sides. When I first knew it there were some four or five on the left land side, and of these 2 at least had been converted from pairs of cottages. The land on the

right was part of the estate, a large field, then a large walled garden (it can still be seen). Beyond the walled garden, and affording an entry there, is still a wooden gate, opposite a cottage which was the head gardener's, now named "Llanthomas Cottage". My memories of the walled garden are not very clear; there were two greenhouses, in one of which grew an old vine (perhaps the very one which grew the grapes Daisy gave to Kilvert for Alice Davies), and trained on the walls were many fruit trees. From the walled garden there was a path to the house. This was the Shrubbery Walk. There had been plantings of rhododendrons, crab apples and cherries, but nature had largely taken over. After the publication of Volume II of Plomer's Selections, with its memorable account of Kilvert's encounter with Revd. William Thomas, this walk became the most "evocative" part of the Llanthomas scene for me.

Some 30 years were to go by before I revisited the area - my association with the house ceased in 1949 when the family emigrated to what was then Southern Rhodesia - in the company of Mr. and Mrs. R.I. Morgan, and I was much saddened that all traces of the walk had disappeared. However, in June this year our Cirencester member, Mr. Nunn, very kindly drove me around the area, and I was pleased to see that some clearing had been made at the further end of the walk, where the back entrance to the house was, and which now leads to the farm. A little way further up Llanthomas Lane are, on the left, two cottages, and on the right the side entrance to the house, now leading to a bungalow.

Though the Shrubbery Walk led to the courtyard at the back of the house, a path branched from it past the dining room to the front of the house - and I feel sure it was along this path that Kilvert was led by Daisy's father, out of sight of the remainder of the family, into the Walk, where the two men would have some "cover" for their conversation.

The Revd. William was fortunate in that the view from the front of the house was one of beauty. Gently rising ground gave prominence to the church and the few cottages adjacent to it, leading the eye upward to the wooded slopes of the Wenallt, with beyond and above the Gospel Pass and the Twmpa, a fine peak of over 2,000 ft. Sixty years after Kilvert's death the only relics of Revd. William's plantings in the front were 2 large cedars, well sited at the south-east corner of the lawns, leaving the view quite unobscured. (They have gone). Croquet had given way to tennis, and the court lay in the centre of the larger lawn - there would have been ample room for four such courts. At the western end were a rockery and a large rose bed, later additions, of course.

The side drive and the front drive led right round to the large stable block, which still stands, and because of its height is easily visible from the road. The Llanthomas coach was housed here, and Mr. Guy Dearlove tells me it is to be seen at St. Fagan's Museum, but named as the Allensmore coach. It must have been taken there when John, the second of Revd. William's sons inherited that estate. (John died without an heir and his brother Henry succeeded him). Yet I think there must have been more than one coach, for there is in existence a photograph of Charlotte, Daisy, the Revd. Canon Morgan (vicar of Llanigon after Revd. William's death) and the gardener's boy posed in front of a coach, which must have been taken in the 1920's. It would seem highly likely that such a large family would need at least 2 such conveyances. When I became acquainted with the stable block, it housed the family car and was used also as a byre.

One of the strange things about Llanthomas was its means of lighting - acetylene. The gas was produced in the stable block, and from taps in the rooms lengths of rubber tubing were connected to the lights. This tubing had to be avoided, naturally, and a further hazard was the smell, not continuous but intermittent. (During the last war a private girls' school occupied Llanthomas, and in a reminiscence published many years ago in a newsletter, one of the ex-pupils wrote that "the matrons had to patrol dormitories with hurricane lamps").

In front of the stable block is a large field now occupied by the school. In my days it was given over to cultivated blackberries, which the villagers would pick and I would weigh. The baskets were taken down to Hay station to be put on the 6.0 p.m. train for the Midlands. Later the field was turned over to pasture. Beyond this field is a house called Ty Cerrig. This was formerly the vicarage. I was told it had been such before the Revd. William became the incumbent, and after his death it had been modernised for his successor "Morgan of Glasbury". (I have written about him in an earlier newsletter, but I did not mention then that he was the best man at Kilvert's Wedding - at least, according to a lady whose family knew him well).

Hence the estate covered a broad rectangle, the length of Llanthomas Lane, and the breadth, as I have indicated, from the old Forge as far as Ty Cerrig. However, in my years at Llanthomas, the farm and some adjacent fields were sold off. As Mr. Richard Thomas summed up, the decay of these large country estates - Llanthomas, Allensmore, Henllys - was brought about by "taxation, financial hardship and the changing fabric of twentieth century society".

The house and remaining lands were bought by a local farmer in 1950, and the house demolished, save for the kitchen block and (as I have indicated) the stable block. I understood that the former was going to be used as a village hall, but it has gone. Not gone, however, are my memories of Llanthomas. As a lover of the Diary I count it my greatest good fortune to have known so well a house which figured so prominently in Kilvert's years at Clyro!

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LINKS and LADIES
by Sidney Ball (Swindon)

It is surprising how often things in Kilvert's Diary link one with another. More strange is when people and places seemingly having no Diary connection nevertheless link us with people Kilvert wrote about. Here are some Links, and also some Ladies in the Diary.

Carpentaria

Last July (1987) some members had the pleasure of meeting the Bishop of Carpentaria and hearing his address at the Malmesbury Service. A map of the Bishop's huge diocese in the north of Australia shows, in the Gulf of Carpentaria, two islands close together, Wellesley Island and Mornington Island. We are reminded of Francis Kilvert, who wrote about "the scamp Wellesley" (Vol. Two, pages 394 + 395) and in Draycot House "saw Lord Mornington's bedroom", (Vol. Two, page 397). This Wellesley inherited his father's title, Earl of Mornington in 1845. Perhaps an Australian member will discover how the two islands got their names - so far away, yet linking us with Kilvert.

Mary Pope

A while ago, in three successive newsletters, our Hon. Secretary gave us some illuminating histories of Francis Kilvert's friend, the Rev. Andrew Pope. Edward West brought in a Wiltshire link, showing that Miss Ashe and the Rev. John Daniell from Langley visited the Popes at Diddlebury in 1889 (Newsletter Feb. 1984, page 16). Miss Ashe would have known Andrew Pope through his wife Mary, whose full maiden name was Harriet Mary Ernle Money-Kyrle. She must have been known by her second Christian name, for Kilvert has "Andrew and Mary Pope" in Vol. Three, page 263. Her third Christian name commemorated her Wiltshire Ernle ancestors.

Just north of Swindon, in the church of Blunsdon St. Leonard, are some early 17th. century brasses to Thomas Haydock and family. Thomas Haydock was an ancestor of Mary Pope! Thomas's daughter, Margaretta married, about 400 years ago, Sir John Ernle, and brought the estate of Burytown into the Ernle family. These Ernles were great ones for marrying heiresses. Sir John's father, Michael Ernle got the estate of Whetham through his first wife Maria, only Daughter of Roger Fynamore. Sir John's great grandson, another Sir John Ernle married in 1674 Vincentia Kyrle who brought The Homme, Much Marcle, to the Ernles. All the people I have named in this paragraph were Mary Pope's ancestors, as was John Kyrle Ernle who entertained Queen Anne at Whetham in the autumn, 1703. The three estates of the Ernles - The Homme (Much Marcle), Whetham (near Calne) and Burytown (near Swindon) came down in time to the Money family, who changed their name to Money-Kyrle. And these three estates were still owned by Mary Pope's family, the Money-Kyrles, in Kilvert's time.

Hannington Links

In the September 1987 newsletter I wrote that the Rev. John Houseman, who died at Hannington (Northants) Rectory, was probably related to the Downes family there. Theresa Williams kindly sent me a news cutting showing that Houseman was the son-in-law of the Rev. John Downes, Rector of Hannington.

The church of Hannington, late 13th. century, is a rarity in England, having two naves. There must have been an earlier church there which links us with Kilvert's interest in Thomas à Becket (Vol. Two, p. 21 + Vol. Three, p. 337). After quarelling with King Henry II at the Council of Northampton in October 1164, Becket

went to Hannington and sought refuge there, before escaping abroad.

Lady Frances Higginson

Francis Kilvert was always interested in parliamentary elections at Chippenham, and in the M.P.'s. The present M.P. for this constituency, Mr. Richard Needham, links us with Lady Frances Higginson, who was a daughter of the 1st. Earl of Kilmorey. Richard Needham is the present Earl of Kilmorey. His is an "Irish" title, so he does not have to renounce it to sit in the House of Commons. But he prefers to be known as "Mr". He is a great great great great nephew of Lady Frances Higginson in Kilvert's Diary.

"Rock of Ages"

In a shop in Burlington Arcade Kilvert tried to buy a copy of the painting "Rock of Ages" or "Clinging to the Cross". Thinking Kilvert was a spy, the shop-keeper refused to serve him! (Vol. One, p. 292). But Francis did buy copies elsewhere, for Mrs. Hockin was pleased with the photograph of it he sent her (Vol. One, p. 305). Mrs. Hockin had it coloured and framed and showed it to Kilvert when he visited the Hockins (Vol. Two, p. 268). Francis also sent a copy to Miss Meuce, (Vol. Two, p. 85).

I have my own personal link here. In pride of place, in an aunt's sitting room in Swindon, hung a large, framed engraving of "The Rock of Ages". As a small boy I wondered how the young woman had got into such a predicament. There she was, in a long white robe, clinging to a granite cross far out to sea! I did not know that years later I would read about Kilvert's liking for this picture.

Baskerville Links

Would you expect to find links with Kilvert's Baskervilles in Nottingham Museum? Tangible links are there in the shape of three carriages - a landau, a phaeton and a travelling chariot. These vehicles were stored for many years in a barn at Manton, near Marlborough, Wilts. I understand that since acquiring the carriages a few years ago, Nottingham Museum folk have restored the vehicles. Squire Thomas Baskerville used these carriages in Wiltshire before going to Clyro to live. Thomas is once in our published diary, where he is wrongly given the name Francis, (Vol. One, p. 336). Kilvert just missed knowing him, for Thomas Baskerville died a few weeks before Kilvert started at Clyro. It was Thomas's son, Walter Baskerville, the Squire of Clyro, about whom Kilvert has much to say.

One wonders why the Baskervilles did not have these grand carriages taken to Clyro, especially when we read Volume One, page 72. Kilvert, with Mr. Venables, in phaeton with two mares driven by Mr. Venables, "dashed past the humble turn-out of the Squire....."

Links with the Nylon age

Always interested in Kilvert's vocabulary, the late Mr. Grice wrote in a newsletter that Kilvert sometimes used recondite words not in the Oxford English Dictionary, such as PerthCart and Zenilla. I think that Francis did not write Perth Cart, this being a mis-reading of his sometimes difficult writing. But Zenilla is in the O.E.D. and other dictionaries, but under its correct spelling ZANELLA. At Llanthomas, Lady Hereford "had taken my umbrella and left me a much better one, a fine silk umbrella in place of my zanella (Vol. Three, p. 272).

Zanella cloth was a material with a cotton warp, made from 1848. Around Kilvert's time, in Beck's Drapers Dictionary it was described as "a mixed twilled fabric, used for covering umbrellas". Today we are all so familiar with numerous made-up materials, called "man made fibres". Kilvert's zanella links us with our own times of nylon and plastic.

"The Diary of Mrs. Kitty Trevvlyan"

Francis Kilvert at his 18th. Lecture at Langley Burrell read for a change about John Wesley and John Nelson "from Mrs. Kitty Trevvlyan's Diary". (Vol. Three, p. 243). The spelling is a letter wrong in Kilvert and is correctly as I have given above. It was not actually a Diary, but a book by Mrs. E. Charles written in 1865. It was advertised as "a story of the times of Whitefield and Wesley".

Mrs. E. Charles wrote about 50 books, including "Chronicles of the Schonberg-Cotta Family" which Kilvert also read (Vol. Three, p. 30).

Three Daughters for Charles and Caroline

Francis Kilvert's connection with "Cranmers" at Mitcham is shorter than we think. Very soon after our diarist stayed at "Cranmers" his hosts, Charles Evan Thomas and wife Caroline left Mitcham with their family.

In the notes in the Sandford Note Book we are told that Charles Evan Thomas and Caroline had 5 sons and 1 daughter. In a newsletter some time ago, the family was stated as 6 sons and 2 daughters. This is the figure given also in Richard Thomas's book about the various Thomas folk. But Charles and Caroline had 6 SONS AND 3 DAUGHTERS. These 9 children were all born before Kilvert's stay at Cranmers.

Kilvert mentions only one of the girls. "After dinner Lilian played to us and brought some beautiful engravings to look at". (Vol. One, p. 24). Emily Lilian Evan Thomas would have been a comely young lady of fifteen or so then. She is Lily Thomas when mentioned later - Volume One, pages 226 + 263. She is wrongly put with the Llanthomas family in the Index (like one of her brothers, Edmund).

I fear Lilian died young, but her two sisters grew up and married. They were Catherine Alicia and Cara Mary, aged only five and one when Kilvert stayed at Cranmers. He must have seen them then; if we had the whole diary they would likely be mentioned.

Cara Mary married in 1890 barrister Cecil Blair Sparrow of Preen Manor, Shropshire. Cara and Cecil made their home at Somerton Court, Somerset, and had children. Cara Mary was known as "Molly" in the family; her sister Catherine Alicia, known as "Kitty" had married four years earlier, Canon J.N. Dalton.

Kitty's brother Hugh brought Kitty and her husband together. Hugh, a favourite of Kilvert's early in the Diary, entered the Royal Navy aged 13 in 1875. A few years later, still a junior officer, Hugh served on the ship where the Rev. John Neale Dalton was Tutor and Governor to the Royal princes, Albert Victor and George. Hugh and Dalton became friends and Hugh showed Dalton some letters from Kitty. Hugh invited Dalton to a holiday at the Evan Thomas family home at The Gnoll, Neath, Glamorgan. There Kitty and John Dalton met and fell in love, despite a big difference in their ages. When they married in 1886, Canon Dalton was in his forties and Kitty half his age. They lived mostly at Windsor and had a son and daughter.

Line Upon Line

After service at Hay Church on Sunday evening, 3rd. July, 1870, the Lyne family "were all standing one behind another. Crichton whispered in Mary Bevan's ear 'Did you ever read a book, called Line upon Line'". (Vol. One, p. 170). This witty aside of Crichton's links us with the amazing authoress, Miss Favell Lee Bevan of Ffosbury in Wiltshire.

A daughter of banker David Bevan and his wife Favell (Lee), Miss Bevan decided as a young girl to devote her life to good works. She founded schools, helped the sick and poor and wrote many religious and educational books for the young. She wrote 'The Peep of Day' in 1836 and 'Line Upon Line' in 1837. Both were described as "a Series of the Earliest Religious Instruction the Infant Mind is capable of receiving". Favell Bevan married in 1841 the Rev. Thomas Mortimer, but was widowed in 1850. As Mrs. Mortimer she wrote a similar book to 'Line Upon Line' called 'Precept Upon Precept'. Her books were translated into many languages and were still being published fifty years after her death in 1878. She is buried in Sherringham St. Peter's churchyard in Norfolk.

'Line Upon Line' links us with another amazing writer, Mrs. Pollock, the oldest person the world has ever known to have written a book. She wrote 'Portrait of my Victorian Youth' when aged 102! Born Alice Wykeham-Martin at Purton, Wilts. in 1865, Mrs. Pollock wrote that she and her sister were brought up on such books as 'Line Upon Line' and 'Precept Upon Precept'. These girls were being taught from 'Line Upon Line' when Francis Kilvert was writing his Diary.

Jean Ingelow

On Friday, 3rd. February 1871 there was a Penny Reading at Clyro. Kilvert tells us that the room was crammed (Vol. One, p. 103). Francis recited Jean Ingelow's "Reflections".

Born at Boston, Lincs, in 1820, Jean Ingelow lived the last twenty years of her life at 6, Holland Villas Road, Kensington. Another link with the Kilverts is that Jean attended services at St. Barnabas Church, Kensington, where Teddy Kilvert was married to Nellie Pitcairn, and where the Kilverts' kinsman, Dr. Francis Hessey was

Vicar, Jean Ingelow would have heard Dr. Hessey preach. She died in 1897. I have seen her memorial tablet on the wall in St. Barnabas, which says,

"Jean Ingelow, Poet and Writer, 1820 - 97, a parishioner for twenty years".

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THE CLYRO WEEKEND
(FRI. 23rd. SEPT - MON. 26th. SEPT inclusive)

Herewith a summary of the events in case you have not the full programme:-

WALKING TOUR OF CLYRO:- each day at midday and at 5. 30 p.m. Starts at the Church, lasts one hour. Pay at start. 75p adults, 40p (including work book) for children.

VICTORIAN TEAS AT CAE MAWR HOUSE:- Tickets £1. 50. Must be booked in advance.

PENNY READING AT CLYRO SCHOOL:- SAT. 24th. SEPT at 7. 30 p.m. Tickets £1. 50, include refreshments.

KILVERT PAGEANT:- Llowes Church SAT. 24th. SEPT at 2. 00 p.m. and 6. 00 p.m. and SUN. 25th. SEPT at 6. 00 p.m. by the children of Rhos Goch School (who came second in a national acting contest this summer). Tickets £1. 50. adults, 50p for children and O.A.P's.

SCHOOL VISITS:- FRI. 23rd. SEPT and MON. 26th. SEPT between 9. 00 a.m. and 4. 00 p.m. lasting one hour, to help children understand a Victorian village, as seen by Kilvert. 40p per child, includes 12 page work book. Adults free. Must be booked in advance, contact the Vicar, Rev. G.M. Reed, St. Peter's Vicarage, Glasbury-on-Wye, Hereford. (Phone Glasbury 657).

SCHOOL TREAT:- SAT. 24th. SEPT, Clyro School, Victorian party, judging of the best victorian costume. Followed by tea, children only, before the races. Tickets 75p for children, 40p adults.

KILVERT BY LAMPLIGHT:- MON. 26th. SEPT at 7. 30 p.m. at Clyro Church. Readings, hymns and songs to evoke the atmosphere of Kilvert's Diary. No charge, but donations welcome.

TICKETS - These can be obtained in advance from Mr. S. Davies, Glandalog, Clyro, Hereford. (Please send exact money, payable to Clyro Church and an S.A.E); or from Clyro Hall during the week.

REFRESHMENTS - Individuals catered for at Clyro Hall. Parties at the Hall by special arrangement.

THE SERVICES

HARVEST EVENSONG at Clyro Church at 7. 00 p.m. on FRI. 23rd. SEPT. Preacher - The Ven. Wynford Rees, Archdeacon of Brecon. A HARVEST SUPPER AT CLYRO COURT at 8. 30 p.m. for which tickets £4.

COMMUNION SERVICE at Clyro Church at 11. 00 a.m. on SUN. 25th. SEPT. Preacher - The Ven. Dwain Jones, Archdeacon of Gower.

HARVEST EVENSONG at Bettws chapel at 6. 30 p.m. on SUN. 25th. SEPT.

The Kilvert Society Commemoration Service will be held on SUN. 25th. SEPT at Clyro Church at 3. 00 p.m. The preacher will be Rev. D.N. Lockwood (a Vice President of the Society) and the lessons will be read by our President, the Lady Delia Venables-Llewelyn, and Mr. R. Livsey (M.P. for Brecon and Radnor, and a member of the Society) The venue for the tea is Llwyn Gwilym Farm. A coach will leave Hereford Town Hall at 1. 45 p.m. Bookings to me, please. There will be no Society Walk on Sept. 24th.

Some members have expressed a wish to attend the Harvest Festival (23rd) and the Penny Reading (24th). I am willing to arrange for the hire of a mini-bus for both these events, but a minimum of 20 bookings is necessary. Those members interested should contact me by Sept. 9th.

E.J.C.W.

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Would overseas members please note that there is now a Bank Charge of £5 for conversion of foreign currency, and in future would they arrange for payments to be made in sterling.